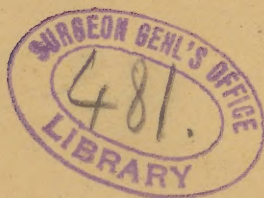
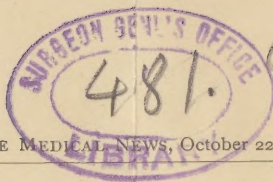


ESHNER (A. A.)

A long toilet-pin accidentally
swallowed x x x x x x





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A LONG TOILET-PIN ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWED, AND PASSED BY THE BOWEL AFTER FOUR DAYS.

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B. J., a colored girl, whose age is recorded as fourteen, but who appeared to be quite three years older, applied at the Jefferson Hospital on the evening of September 4th, stating that she had shortly before swallowed a toilet-pin, a duplicate of which she presented in evidence. As the foreign body seemed to be beyond immediate reach, the girl was advised to apply to the Out-patient Department on the following morning, and this she did shortly after noon. The girl stated that she felt slight pain in the epigastrium, but presented no other evidence of distress, beyond the fear of evil consequences of the accident that had befallen her. She was, however, reassured, and carefully enjoined to live upon a diet consisting exclusively of mashed potatoes and milk, and to examine her stools in the hope of finding the foreign body. She returned in the course of two days, stating that the bowels had been moved, but that the offending body had not been found; the abdominal pain had changed its seat, and was now referred to the right hypochondrium. She was advised to persist in the treatment recommended. A day later she had the satisfaction of passing the foreign body, which, she stated when she brought it to me two days later, was surrounded by a layer of potato. The accompanying illustration represents the actual length of the pin.



Cases of the kind to which that here reported belongs present certain features of interest. In the first place, the body was a fairly large one, and besides, having a sharp point, it exposed the patient to all of the risks attendant upon the presence of such a body in the gastrointestinal tract. In the second place, foreign bodies have not always been swallowed when patients come complaining of such accidents. Within a year I have seen a woman who stated that she had swallowed a rather large plate of artificial teeth. The history was that, feeling unusually fatigued, she had, contrary to her custom, retired without removing the plate. On arising the next morning, the teeth were not in her mouth, and they could nowhere be found. The woman complained of considerable abdominal pain. There was no difficulty in swallowing, and a probang introduced into the esophagus encountered no obstruction. The woman was placed upon a mashed-potato diet, and reported several times, but finally failed to present herself. Inquiry, however, elicited the information that the missing plate had been found in some place in which it had previously been overlooked.

A third contingency that may arise is that a person has swallowed a foreign body and his statement be not believed. Just such a coincidence occurred within my experience in the case of a man at the Philadelphia Hospital, believed to be insane, in which the complaint of having swallowed a plate of teeth, with the accompanying symptoms, was considered to be a delusion, to which little attention was paid, until the condition became threatening, when exploration revealed the presence of a foreign body in the esophagus. Esophagotomy was performed, and the foreign body removed, but the patient unfortunately died of a septic pneumonia.

